**Smooth Functioning of Jangla Telephone Exchange**

205. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Witt the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Telephone Exchange Jangla in Shimla District is not functioning properly since long; and

whether Government may reconsider the demand of people of Ransar Valley to establish Independent Telephone Exchange or connect modern equipment for smooth functioning of Telephone Exchange Jangla?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No. Sir.

At present, there is no plan to set up an independent exchange in Ransar Vally. Jangla is already having latest technology electronic exchange (Two units of 256P C-DOT as well as reliable media (OFC).

**Opposition to Privatisation of Telecom Services**

206. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned "Defence Oppose DOT privatisation" published in The Statesman on 4th July 2000;

if so, whether DOT has received any observation of MOD to the effect that the basic Telecom services for North-East and J&K, at present under Government should not be privatised for security reasons; and

if so, the response of Government thereon;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No such observation has been received from MOD for basic telecom services.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.